

R315. Environmental Quality, Solid and Hazardous Waste.

R315-303. Landfilling Standards.

R315-303-1. Applicability.

These standards apply to:

- (1) Class I, II, and V Landfills;
- (2) Class III Landfills as specified in Rule R315-304; and
- (3) Class IV, and VI Landfills as specified in Rule R315-305.

R315-303-2. Standards for Performance.

(1) Ground Water. An owner or operator of a disposal facility shall not contaminate the ground water underlying the facility beyond the ground water quality standard set in Section R315-308-4 or, for constituents not set in Section R315-308-4, as established by the Executive Secretary based on health risk standards.

(2) Air Quality and Explosive Gas Emissions.

(a) An owner or operator of a disposal facility shall not allow concentrations of explosive gases generated by the facility to exceed:

(i) twenty-five percent of the lower explosive limit for explosive gases in facility structures, excluding gas control or recovery system components; and

(ii) the lower explosive limit for explosive gases at the property boundary or beyond.

(b) An owner or operator of a disposal facility shall not cause a violation of any ambient air quality standard at the property boundary or emission standard from any emission of landfill gases, combustion or any other emission associated with the facility.

(3) Surface Waters. An owner or operator of a disposal facility:

(a) shall not cause a violation of any Utah Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit or standard from discharges of surface run-off, leachate or any liquid associated with the facility; and

(b) shall be in compliance under the Clean Water Act for any discharge as well as in compliance with any area-wide or state-wide plan under Section 208 or 319 of the Clean Water Act.

R315-303-3. Standards for Design.

(1) Minimizing Liquids. An owner or operator of a landfill shall minimize liquids admitted to active areas by:

(a) covering according to Subsection R315-303-4(4);

(b) prohibiting the disposal of containerized liquids larger than household size, noncontainerized liquids, sludge containing free liquids, or any waste containing free liquids in containers larger than household size;

(c) designing the landfill to prevent run-on of all surface waters resulting from a maximum flow of a 25-year storm into the active area of the landfill; and

(d) designing the landfill to collect and treat the run-off of surface waters and other liquids resulting from a 25-year storm from the active area of the landfill.

(e) If the owner or operator of a landfill has received a storm water permit as issued by the Utah Division of Water Quality and is meeting the requirements of the permit, the landfill may be exempt, upon approval of the Executive Secretary, from the run-on and run-off control requirements of Subsections R315-303-3(1)(c) and (d).

(2) Leachate Collection Systems.

(a) An owner or operator of a landfill required to install liners shall:

(i) install a leachate collection system sized according to water balance calculations or using other accepted engineering methods either of which shall be approved by the Executive Secretary;

(ii) install a leachate collection system so as to prevent no more than one foot depth of leachate developing at any point in the bottom of the landfill unit; and

(iii) install a leachate treatment system or a pretreatment system, if necessary, in the case of discharge to a municipal water treatment plant.

(b) The returning of leachate to the landfill or the recirculation of

leachate in the landfill may be done only in landfills that have a composite liner system or an approved equivalent liner system.

(3) Liner Designs. An owner or operator of a landfill shall use liners of one of the following designs:

(a) Standard Design. The design shall have a composite liner system consisting of two liners and the associated liner protection layers and a drainage system for leachate collection:

(i) an upper liner made of synthetic material with a thickness of at least 60 mils; and

(ii) a lower liner of at least two feet thickness of recompacted clay or other soil material with a permeability of no more than 1×10^{-7} cm/sec having the bottom liner sloped no less than 2% and the side liners sloped no more than 33%, except where construction and operational integrity can be demonstrated at steeper slopes, with the synthetic liner installed in direct and uniform contact with the compacted soil component; or

(b) Alternative Design.

(i) The Executive Secretary may approve an alternative liner design, on a site specific basis, if it can be documented that, under the conditions of location and hydrogeology, the performance standard of Subsection R315-303-2(1) can be met.

(ii) When approving an alternative liner design, the Executive Secretary shall consider the following factors:

(A) the hydrogeologic characteristics of the facility and surrounding land;

(B) the climatic factors of the area; and

(C) the volume and physical and chemical characteristics of the leachate; or

(c) Equivalent Design.

(i) The owner or operator may use, as approved by the Executive Secretary, alternative design, operating practices, and location characteristics which will minimize the migration of solid waste constituents or leachate into the ground or surface water which are at least as effective as the liners of Subsections R315-303-3(3)(a) or (b).

(ii) The owner or operator must demonstrate that the standard of Subsection R315-303-2(1) can be met. The demonstration must be approved by the Executive Secretary, and must be based upon:

(A) the hydrogeologic characteristics of the facility and the surrounding land;

(B) the climatic factors of the area;

(C) the volume and physical and chemical characteristics of the leachate;

(D) predictions of contaminate fate and transport in the subsurface that maximize contaminant migration and consider impacts on human health and the environment; or

(d) Stringent Design. When conditions of location, hydrogeology, or waste stream justify, the Executive Secretary may require that the liner of a landfill be constructed to meet standards more stringent than the liner designs of Subsection R315-303-3(3)(a).

(e) Small Landfill Design.

(i) The small landfill design applies only to a Class II Landfill.

(ii) Subject to the location standards of Section R315-302-1 and the performance standards of Section R315-303-2, a Class II Landfill may be exempt from the liner, leachate collection system, and ground water monitoring requirements of Rule R315-303.

(iii) A Class II Landfill will be approved only if:

(A) there is no evidence of existing ground water contamination; and

(B) the landfill serves a community that has no practicable waste management alternative as determined by the Executive Secretary; and

(C) the landfill is located in an area which receives less than 25 inches of annual precipitation.

(iv) A Class II Landfill may lose the exemptions of the small landfill design if at anytime the landfill receives more than 20 tons of solid waste per day, based on an annual average, or has caused ground water contamination.

(4) Closure. At closure, an owner or operator of a Class I, II, IIIa,

IVa, and V Landfill shall use one of the following designs for the final cover.

(a) Standard Design. The standard design of the final cover shall consist of two layers:

(i) a layer to minimize infiltration, consisting of at least 18 inches of compacted soil, or equivalent, with a permeability of 1×10^{-5} cm/sec or less, or equivalent, shall be placed upon the final lifts;

(A) in no case shall the cover of the final lifts be more permeable than the bottom liner system or natural subsoils present in the unit; and

(B) the grade of surface slopes shall not be less than 2%, nor the grade of side slopes more than 33%, except where construction integrity and the integrity of erosion control can be demonstrated at steeper slopes; and

(i) a layer to minimize erosion, consisting of:

(A) at least 6 inches of soil capable of sustaining vegetative growth placed over the compacted soil cover and seeded with grass, other shallow rooted vegetation or other native vegetation; or

(B) other suitable material, approved by the Executive Secretary.

(b) Alternative Design. The Executive Secretary may approve an alternative final cover design, on a site specific basis, if it can be documented that:

(i) the alternative final cover achieves an equivalent reduction in infiltration as specified as the standard design in Subsection R315-303-3(4)(a)(i); and

(ii) the alternative final cover provides equivalent protection from wind and water erosion as specified as the standard design in Subsection R315-303-3(4)(b)(ii).

(c) If a landfill has been constructed using an approved alternative landfill design, including a waiver, or exemption, from the liner or ground water monitoring requirements, the Executive Secretary may require, on a site specific basis, the landfill closure to be a more stringent design than the standard design specified in Subsection R315-303-3(4)(a) to protect human health or the environment.

(d) In no case shall any modification be made to the final cover, as placed and approved at closure by the Executive Secretary, unless that modification:

(i) is a necessary repair of the approved final cover;

(ii) maintains or improves the effectiveness of the final cover; and

(iii) is approved by the Executive Secretary.

(5) Gas Control.

(a) An owner or operator shall design each landfill so that explosive gases are monitored quarterly.

(b) If the concentration of these gases ever exceed the standard set in Subsection R315-303-2(2)(a), the owner or operator must:

(i) immediately take all necessary steps to ensure protection of human health and, within 24 hours or the next business day, notify the Executive Secretary;

(ii) within seven days of detection, place in the operating record the explosive gas levels detected and a description of the steps taken to protect human health; and

(iii) within 60 days of detection, implement a remediation plan, that has been approved by the Executive Secretary, for the explosive gas release, place a copy of the plan in the operating record, and notify the Executive Secretary that the plan has been implemented.

(c) Collection and handling of explosive gases shall not be required if it can be shown that the explosive gases will not support combustion.

(d) The Executive Secretary may, on a site specific basis, waive the requirement of monitoring explosive gases at a Class II Landfill. The waiver may be granted after:

(i) considering the characteristics of the landfill and the waste stream accepted;

(ii) taking into account climatic and hydrogeologic conditions of the site; and

(iii) completing a public comment period as specified by Section R315-311-3.

(iv) The Executive Secretary may revoke any waiver from the requirement of monitoring explosive gases if the lack of monitoring explosive gases at the landfill presents a threat to human health or the environment.

(v) The requirement to monitor explosive gases inside buildings at a landfill may not be waived.

(e) A landfill that accepts no municipal waste is exempt from the gas monitoring requirement of Subsection R315-303-3(5)(a).

(6) Design Drawings.

(a) Design drawings and as built drawings of any engineered structure, including landfill liners, leachate collection systems, run-on/run-off control systems, final covers, ground water monitoring systems, and gas collection systems, shall be signed and sealed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Utah.

(b) As built drawings shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary on or before 90 days following the completion of the engineered structure at the landfill.

(7) Other Requirements. An owner or operator shall design each landfill to provide for:

(a) fencing at the property or unit boundary or the use of other artificial or natural barriers to impede entry by the public and large animals. A lockable gate shall be required at the entry to the landfill;

(b) monitoring ground water according to Rule R315-308 using a design approved by the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary may also require monitoring of:

(i) surface waters, including run-off;

(ii) leachate; and

(iii) subsurface landfill gas movement and ambient air;

(c) weighing or estimating the tonnage of all incoming waste and recording the tonnage in the facility's operation record;

(d) erecting a sign at the facility entrance that identifies at least the name of the facility, the hours during which the facility is open for public use, unacceptable materials, and an emergency telephone number. Other pertinent information may also be included;

(e) adequate fire protection to control any fires that may occur at the facility. This may be accomplished by on-site equipment or by arrangement made with the nearest fire department;

(f) preventing potential harborage in buildings, facilities, and active areas of rat and other vectors, such as insects, birds, and burrowing animals;

(g) minimizing the size of the unloading area and working face as much as possible, consistent with good traffic patterns and safe operation;

(h) approach and exit roads of all-weather construction, with traffic separation and traffic control on-site and at the site entrance; and

(i) communication, such as telephone or radio, between employees working at the landfill and management offices on-site and off-site to handle emergencies.

R315-303-4. Standards for Maintenance and Operation.

(1) Plan of Operation. An owner or operator of a landfill shall maintain and operate the facility to conform to the approved plan of operation.

(2) Operating Details. An owner or operator of a landfill shall operate the facility to:

(a) control fugitive dust generated from roads, construction, general operations, and covering the waste;

(b) allow no open burning;

(c) collect scattered litter as necessary to avoid a fire hazard or an aesthetic nuisance;

(d) prohibit scavenging;

(e) conduct on-site reclamation in an orderly sanitary manner and in a way that does not interfere with the disposal site operation;

(f) ensure that landfill personnel, trained in landfill operations, are on-site when the site is open to the public;

(i) at least one person on-site for landfills that receive, on an average annual basis, less than 15,000 tons per year; and

(ii) at least two persons on-site, with one person at the active face, for each landfill that receives, on an average annual basis, more than 15,000 tons per year.

(g) control insects, rodents, and other vectors; and

(h) ensure that reserve operational equipment will be available to maintain and meet these standards.

(3) Boundary Posts. An owner or operator of a landfill shall clearly mark the active area boundaries authorized in the permit with permanent posts or using an equivalent method clearly visible for inspection purposes.

(4) Daily and Intermediate Cover.

(a) An owner or operator of a landfill shall, at the close of each day of operation, completely cover the waste with at least six inches of soil or other suitable material approved by the Executive Secretary. The use of an approved alternative daily cover:

(i) may not present a threat to human health or the environment; and

(ii) may be used only on a schedule as established by the Executive Secretary.

(iii) The schedule for use of the approved alternative cover shall be established based on the alternative cover's performance in controlling vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging.

(b) The Executive Secretary may, on a site specific basis, waive the requirement for daily cover of the waste at a landfill that accepts no municipal waste if the owner or operator demonstrates that an alternative schedule for covering the waste does not present a threat to human health or the environment. The demonstration from the owner or operator of the landfill must include at least the following:

(i) certification that the landfill accepts no municipal waste;

(ii) a detailed list of the waste types accepted by the landfill;

(iii) the alternative schedule on which the waste will be covered; and

(iv) any other operational practices that may reduce the threat to human health or the environment if an alternative schedule for covering the waste is followed.

(v) In granting any waiver from the daily cover requirement, the Executive Secretary may place conditions on the owner or operator of the landfill as to the frequency of covering, depth of the cover, or type of material used as cover that will minimize the threat to human health or the environment.

(vi) The Executive Secretary may revoke any waiver from the daily cover requirement if any condition is not met or if the alternative schedule for covering the waste presents a threat to human health or the environment.

(c) If an area of the working face of a landfill that accepts municipal waste will not receive waste for a period longer than 30 days, the owner or operator shall cover the area with a minimum of 12 inches of soil as an intermediate cover or an alternative intermediate cover as approved by the Executive Secretary.

(i) No alternative intermediate cover will be approved by the Executive Secretary without application from the owner or operator.

(ii) Approval for an alternative intermediate cover may be granted after:

(A) considering the design of the landfill, waste stream accepted, and waste handling practices; and

(B) taking into account climatic, hydrogeologic, and soil conditions of the site.

(iii) In granting approval for an alternative intermediate cover, the Executive Secretary may place conditions on the owner or operator of the landfill as to the depth or type of material used and maintenance of the integrity of the cover that will minimize the threat to human health or the environment.

(iv) The Executive Secretary may revoke the approval of an alternative intermediate cover if any condition is not met or if the alternative intermediate cover is determined to present a threat to human health or the environment.

(5) Monitoring Systems. An owner or operator of a landfill shall maintain the monitoring systems required in Subsection R315-303-3(6)(b).

(6) Recycling Required.

(a) An owner or operator of a landfill at which the general public delivers household solid waste shall provide containers in which the general public may place recyclable materials for which a market exists that are brought to the site:

- (i) during the normal hours of operation; and
- (ii) at a location convenient to the public, i.e., near the entrance gate.

(b) An owner or operator may demonstrate alternative means to providing an opportunity for the general public to recycle household solid waste.

(7) Disposal of Hazardous Waste and Waste Containing PCBs.

(a) An owner or operator of a solid waste disposal facility shall not knowingly dispose, treat, store, or otherwise handle hazardous waste or waste containing PCBs except under the following conditions:

- (i) hazardous waste:
- (A) the waste meets the conditions specified in Subsections R315-2-4; or

(B) the waste meets the conditions specified in 40 CFR 261.5 (1996) as incorporated by reference in Section R315-2-5; or

- (ii) waste containing PCB's:

(A) the facility meets the requirements specified in Subsection R315-315-7(3)(a); or

(B) the waste meets the requirements specified in Subsections R315-315-7(2) or (3)(b).

(b) An owner or operator of a solid waste disposal facility shall include and implement, as part of the plan of operation, a plan that will inspect loads or take other steps, as approved by the Executive Secretary, that will prevent the disposal of prohibited hazardous waste and prohibited waste containing PCBs, including:

(i) inspection frequency and inspection of loads suspected of containing prohibited hazardous waste or prohibited waste containing PCBs;

(ii) inspection in a designated area or at a designated point in the disposal process;

(iii) a training program for the facility employees in identification of prohibited hazardous waste and prohibited waste containing PCBs; and

(iv) maintaining written records of all inspections, signed by the inspector.

(c) If the receipt of prohibited hazardous waste or prohibited waste containing PCBs is discovered, the owner or operator of the facility shall:

(i) notify the Executive Secretary, the hauler, and the generator within 24 hours;

(ii) restrict the inspection area from public access and from facility personnel; and

(iii) assure proper cleanup, transport, and disposal of the waste.

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